



Board of Optometry Regular Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2022

Board members present: Glen Owen, OD, Chair
Bill Prothero, OD, Vice-chair
Bob Davis, OD, MBA
Keren Yang, OD
Palwinder Kaur, OD
Beth Rollinger, MHA, MS, OTR/L, Public Member

Staff members present: Jennifer Santiago, Executive Director
Kristina Bell, Program Manager
Noelle Chung, Assistant Attorney General
Poppy Budrow, Budget Analyst
Jeff Wise, Policy Analyst
Madi Schatz, Administrative Assistant

On September 09, 2022, the Board of Optometry met via web conference. Notice of the meeting was published on the [Board of Optometry website](#) and was sent out through the GovDelivery listserv.

OPEN SESSION:

9:00 a.m. **Open Session**

Welcome and Introductions

1. Call to Order and Decision to Hold Meeting Virtually

Dr. Owen called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

The board discussed the rescission of [Proclamation 20-28](#), which has allowed virtual meetings during COVID. [Engrossed Substitute House Bill \(ESHB 1329\)](#) passed in 2022, which allows continued virtual meetings when an in-person meeting cannot be held with “reasonable safety” during a declared state of emergency.

Dr. Davis moved that the board conduct a virtual meeting. The motion was seconded and adopted.

2. Open Forum

No comments from the audience.

3. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Davis moved to approve the September 09, 2022, agenda. The motion was seconded and adopted.

4. Approval of Minutes – June 24, 2022, business meeting

Dr. Prothero moved to approve the June 24, 2022, minutes as posted. The motion was seconded and adopted.

Reports

5. Glen Owen, OD, Chair

Dr. Owen shared that Dr. Yang and Dr. Kaur are being mentored by both Dr. Prothero and himself.

Dr. Davis’ term ends on September 19, 2022. Dr. Davis was thanked for his service to the board.

6. Jennifer Santiago, Executive Director and Lorelei Walker, Program Manager; Department of Health

Staffing- Ms. Santiago shared that Ms. Kristina Bell will be assisting Ms. Lorelei Walker with The Board of Optometry workload.

Credentialing- Ms. Santiago shared optometrist licensing statistics from February 01, 2022 – July 31, 2022. Optometrist credentials are typically issued 14.9 days after the application is completed. The credential counts by board and status as of August 28, 2022, indicate that there are 1,758 active optometrist licenses in Washington State. Ms. Santiago summarized [RCW 18.53.060 License Applications-Eligibility-Qualifications-Examinations-Exception](#) and [WAC 246-851-490](#) regarding licensure requirements.

Budget- Ms. Santiago shared that the budget for the 2021-23 biennium for the period of July 01, - June 30, 2022, is satisfactory. The fund balance is exceeding the goal, the revenue appears to be exceeding the expenses.

Committees- Ms. Santiago shared the committee member roster with the board and apologized for being unable to complete committee work during this last quarter. The subcommittees plan to meet before the next business meeting. Dr. Owen agreed to be added to the continuing education committee.

Board recruitment- A package was submitted to the Governor's Office for consideration. Ms. Santiago requested that Dr. Kaur is reappointed to the board. An applicant is expected to be appointed to Dr. Davis' position before the next business meeting. Dr. Prothero's appointment may not be filled, which will allow him to continue as a member until a successor is appointed to assist the board with continuity.

7. Noelle Chung, AAG

[Order of the Secretary of Health Amending Order 20-03, Face Coverings](#)- Ms. Chung shared that masks continue to be required in some settings, including healthcare, long-term care, and correctional facilities.

[Proclamation by the Governor Amending Proclamations 20-05 and 20-25, "Washington Ready"](#)- The Governor's state of emergency declaration expires on October 31, 2022. Federal government declarations of emergency remain in place, such as the [Stafford Act](#) and the [Administration for Strategic Preparedness & Response: Renewal of Determination that a Public Health Emergency Exists](#).

8. Health Equity Continuing Education Legislation

Ms. Santiago recommended that the board consider opening a CR-101 to implement Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5229 requiring health equity continuing education.

The Department of Health has filed a CR-102 for model rules and is recommending two hours of health equity continuing education every four years.

The board discussed how to incorporate language for this new continuing education requirement into current continuing education rule amendments. Staff will work with Ms. Noelle Chung on potential language.

Dr. Yang moved to open a CR-101. The motion was seconded and adopted.

9. [Substitute Senate Bill \(SSB\) 5496 – Health Professional Monitoring Programs](#)

Ms. Santiago recommended that the board consider opening a CR-101 to implement [Substitute Senate Bill 5496](#), which had changed the term substance abuse to substance use disorder.

Ms. Rollinger moved that the board open a CR-101. The motion was seconded and adopted.

10. Topical Drugs

The board discussed contact lenses as ophthalmic drug delivery systems and decided to delay opening a CR-101 for [WAC 246-851-410 Drug Formulary](#). The board will revisit this topic after completing ongoing continuing education, health equity, and jurisprudence projects.

11. Correspondence

The board discussed an email from the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE), inviting interested parties to submit comments regarding proposed changes relating

to the Proposed Phase out of ACOE Accreditation of Optometric Technician Programs and Modifications to the Substantive Changes Policy and Procedure.

Dr. Prothero moved that the board remain silent because of lacking substantive input. The motion was seconded and adopted.

12. Meeting Dates for 2023

The board established the following quarterly meeting dates for 2023:

March 10, 2023

June 09, 2023

September 08, 2023

December 01, 2023

Ms. Rollinger moved that the board accept the proposed dates for 2023. The motion was seconded and adopted.

13. COVID-19 Emergency Topics

The board identified and discussed optometry COVID-19 issues. The board recommended updating the disciplinary technical assistant letter.

Dr. Yang moved that the December business meeting is hybrid. The motion was seconded and adopted.

14. Agenda-Building

The board established the following priority items for the December 02, 2022, agenda:

- HELMS presentation
- Health Equity Continuing Education
- [Substitute Senate Bill \(SSB\) 5496 – Health Professional Monitoring Programs](#)

Adjournment of Open Session

Ms. Rollinger moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:53 a.m. The motion was seconded and adopted.

Submitted by:

Loralei Walker, Program Manager
Board of Optometry

Approved by:

Glen Owen, Chair
Board of Optometry

on file

SIGNATURE

DATE

on file

SIGNATURE

DATE